

"Piece By Piece -- Galilee!"

Text: Mark 9:32 "But they understood not that saying and were afraid to ask"

Scripture: Mark 9:30-32, 2 Samuel 7:12-17

Jesus has now come to Galilee, but again this gives us no definite place where He was. Galilee ~~xxxx~~ literally meant "ring" or "circle" and was literally an area made up of quite a few little villages and towns. Chorazin, Capernaum, Cana, Nain, Nazareth, the plain of Gennesaret and others. We can see from this that Jesus whereabouts is still not definite. It is rather ironic that almost all of the ministry of Jesus lay within the borders of this small region. But it is at this point in His ministry that a milestone has been reached. Jesus now stands on the threshold of what will be for Him, His final days. He has left behind the nirth country where He was realtively safe, and has now turned to go toward Jerusalem where the final ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{phases} of His life's drama will take place.

The Scripture tells us that He did not want anyone to know where He was.

~~TRAVELING~~ ^{INCognito.} ~~us~~ we see that He felt it was imperative that He share these last few moments with His disciples and explain to them again what was going to happen to Him. He knew that once He was entered into the more hostile territory in and around Jerusalem, that He would not really have the privacy to teach His disciples what He wanted them to know. He did not want the crowds around Him to ~~xxx~~ prevent His speaking openly and frankly to the disciples. We can see from all of this that Jesus must have felt it was imperative to get this message accross to these men. His feeling might well have been that before He left this earth in the body, He desired for someone, and in particular these men, to know all of the whys and wherefores of His ministry. He seemed to be seeking to convey to them the urgency of the situation and that they try to grasp what it really meant.

This is the second time that Jesus is ~~conveying~~ fortelling His future. The first mention of it was made at Caesarea Philippi. But one phrase is added to this second telling. We read, (vs 31b), "The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men." He did not say this in the firstbtelling, and it is sig-

nificant at this point. Jesus is sharing the secret that He will be betrayed by someone. Perhaps He was letting Judas know that He was aware of Judas' thoughts and feelings. And perhaps He was trying to give Judas a chance to change. But in any event, this portion of His announcement was not understood, just as all of the rest of it was uncomprehended by them. We read, vs 32, "But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask Him."

THEY
^ Probably they did not understand all of it because it conflicted with what they believed and thought the Messiah would be. They now knew Him to be this promised one because of what had happened at Caesarea Philippi with Peter's confession. Peter had called Him the Christ, and Jesus did not deny it. So now here was the Messiah telling that He was going to be put to death. All of their lives they had heard and been taught what the Messiah would do, and what Jesus was saying was contrary to their knowledge. As we read in the book of 2 Samuel how Nathan was sent from God to David, and he told David that from him shall continue the royal line. And from this royal line would come one who would build the House of the Lord. But these disciples as well as all the Jews, were looking for this King to come and to overthrow their enemies, and literally build the Temple, or the House of the Lord. They could not conceive of Him as coming as a mere mortal. ~~They~~ It was impossible for them to think of His being put to death. And they were not thinking of Him building ~~at~~ the House of the Lord in the hearts and lives of people. And more especially, they were only thinking in terms of Jews as being the only ones who would benefit from the reign and rule of this Messiah. Thus we can see why they did not understand what He was saying. A portion of their not understanding was that they did not want to understand. Humans are like this, and have the capacity to shut out from their minds and lives the things that conflict with the way they want to act or believe. In fact there is a type of emotional disorder in which the individual withdraws from the world of reality and lives in a world of unreality. The disciples were not in this category, but they were unwilling to accept

that which was contrary to what they had been taught and led to believe.

For we read that they not only did not understand what He was saying, but they were afraid to ask Him.

In all of this we can see the disciples are acting much like little children. Have you ever come across a little child who should have asked a question and did not? And when questioned as to why he neglected to do so, the answer was, "I was afraid to ask?" This seemed to be the predicament of the disciples. But if only they had known how much Jesus probably was yearning and wishing that they would ask for an explanation of what was going to take place. He probably longed for that old informal closeness they felt on so many occasions when they shared everything on the same level.

But perhaps they were afraid to ask because of the fact that He had said someone would deliver Him into the hands of His enemies. ~~There were many factors in the way of explanation for this little in the way of explanation for this~~ It isn't too difficult to picture in our minds this small band of men clustered around Jesus, their closest friend and their leader, and some with downcast eyes because they could not meet his gaze. Others looking around into the faces of their fellow disciples and striving to discern if they could detect the look of a traitor there. We can well imagine impetuous Peter self-consciously kicking at the sand and wondering in his mind if the betrayer would be he. ~~They all knew~~ He would be recalling the fact that he had not completely trusted His Lord when he started to walk on the water to meet Him, and because of his lack of complete faith he had sunk beneath the water. Perhaps he was thinking that sometime in the near future his faith would let go again, and he would betray Jesus. They all knew that Jesus was able to look into their hearts and know their inward desires and feelings, and they must have been thinking that He saw something within them. That they were unaware of. How about Simon the Zealot? He belonged to a group that has as its avowed task to eliminate the enemies of the Jews. Just perhaps in the scheme of things he would be responsible for delivering Jesus over to the Romans. Or how about Matthew? When he was a tax collector

his greed for ~~that~~ money must have led him many times to overcharge one of the poor people who could not afford to complain because of the corruptness of the system. And so if we visualize this scene in our minds it is not too difficult to understand why they ~~did not~~ "were afraid to ask."

But as in all of these instances involving the latter days of Jesus, too little is said and much is left to conjecture. The only thing we can really understand is that the disciples and all of the people did not understand what was taking place, and the significance of it all.

But when we realize that we do know what was taking place and that even with the amount of research and interpretation that has gone into all of this in the last almost 2000 years, it is difficult to understand that there are many people today who still will not understand and are afraid to ask. I said "will not" simply because there are those who just will not believe. They have the written proof, and they have all of the interpretations given them and they turn their backs on the Lord. People have said to me, they cannot believe the story of salvation because it sounds too much like a fairy tale. Or they will not believe because they cannot actually see God. Or they will not believe because they feel they must do all sorts of work in order to earn it, or because they are too far gone. The story of one such man was told in the Sunday School Times, (Illustration of this man, and Jesus saying "I WILL.")

Here was the lesson for the disciples of Jesus. They did not need to understand all of what was taking place, and they need not have been afraid to ask. Jesus would have explained it to them in plain and simple terms, and they would have understood in a new way.

The same applies to us. We need not understand all that God has done for us through His Son. All we need to do is accept it as the free gift that it is, and then strive to live ~~in~~ in that faith from then on. If your heart is troubled because you do not understand it all, or because you think you have not worked enough, or you feel you are not good enough; just stop trying to

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 2, 1975
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. EUGENE STEPHENSON, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
SHARI MCBRIDE, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
PRELUDE MUSIC "CONSIDER AND HEAR ME" PFLUEGER
"ONLY BELIEVE" FRICK

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 31 "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "HAVE MERCY UPON US, O GOD, ACCORD-
ING TO THY LOVING-KINDNESS; ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE
OF THY TENDER MERCIES BLOT OUT OUR TRANSGRESSION. WASH
US THOROUGHLY FROM OUR INIQUITIES, AND CLEANSE US FROM
OUR SINS. FOR WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, AND
OUR SIN IS EVER BEFORE US. PURGE US AND WE SHALL BE
CLEAN; WASH US AND WE SHALL BE WHITER THAN SNOW. CREATE
IN US CLEAN HEARTS, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN
US. CAST US NOT AWAY FROM THY PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT THY
HOLY SPIRIT FROM US. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 7:12-17 MARK: 9:30-32 2-PAY
HYMN No. 141 "LORD, WHO THROUGH-OUT THESE FORTY DAYS" DEPT. 45,6

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "GOOD FRIEND, FOR JESUS' SAKE

FORBEAR-
BEETHOVEN

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

ANTHEM: "HE LOVED THEM TO THE END" ROGERS

SERMON: "PIECE BY PIECE, -- GALILEE!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 286 "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE: "MARCH PONTIFICALE" STICKLES

--- *CONGREGATION STANDING ---

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MRS. VINCENT ANGELONI IN LOVING MEMORY OF "MOTHER".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *ALLEN BOTACCHI,
JOHN REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES PENAR.
VICE PRES. EUGENE STEPHENSON AND DAUGHTER PAULA WILL
REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. DORIS
ZAVACKY AND NANCY LINK.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 194; WED. 84.

TONIGHT: 6:30-7:00 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

TONIGHT: 7:00 - THE YOUTH GROUPS WILL MEET

MONDAY: 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE WILL MEET.

MRS. OLIVE MILLER WILL SHOW SLICES FROM THE HOLY
LANDS. EVERYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IS INVITED.

MONDAY: 6:30 P.M. - BASKETBALL - ST. PAUL'S VS. ST. MARKS

WEDNESDAY: 7:30 - LENTEN SERVICE

WEDNESDAY: 8:30 - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LENTEN SERVICE
THE COUNCIL WILL MEET.

PLEASE HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN FOR THE NEWSLETTER BY
WEDNESDAY.

SATURDAY: - 1:00 P.M. - ST. PAUL'S VS. MERIDIAN IN/ BASKETBALL.

FRIDAY: - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
AT 1:30 P.M.

BAPTIZED TODAY: MICHAEL PATRICK FINUCAN, SON OF
MR. & MRS. WILLIAM FINUCAN. LISA IRENE VARGO,
DAUGHTER OF MR. & MRS. STEVE VARGO.

BAPTISM - 4:00 TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. TRESA NICHOLAS, MRS. ROY ANDREWS

PLEASE GET ORDERS IN FOR LILIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. 4/9

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST - YMCA - 6:00 A.M. - SEE

KENNETH WEITZEL OR J. W. HARMON FOR TICKETS -

SPEAKER WILL BE RICHARD K. KENNEDY, D.D.

THERE ARE A LOT OF EMPTY Pews OF WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
FEEL FREE TO FILL THEM - SEE YOU WEDNESDAY.

WELCOME VISITORS - GREET ONE ANOTHER
DEATH MR. PETERS - SYMPATHY MRS. JOHNS

Humans like this, have capac shut out minus lives 2/
 things conflict way want act or believe.
 Emotional disorder which individ withdraw world of
 reality
 Discs not this categor, but unwill accept contra
 they taught or believe
 Read not only no understand, but afraid ask Him
 Discs like little children,
 ever C child should ask quest & no do? & ask
 why, he say afraid
 this the predica discs
 If only knew how Js prob yern, wish tell them
 if only they had asked
 Prob long 4 old closeness, inform so many occasi
 Perhaps afraid Beause said sum1 deliv Him hand enem
 Isn't 2 diffi 2 pict our minds sm band men cluster
 rd Js their closest friend & leader
 Sum prob with dncast eyes Beause could not meet
 His gaze
 others look faces fellow discs strive discern
 if could detect look traitor there
 Can well imagine ~~xxxx~~ impet Pete self-conscious
 kick at sand & wonder in mind if betrayer B he
 He recall fact he no complete trust Lord when try
 walk on water & sunk Beause lack faith
 Perhaps think future his faith let go again & he
 betray Js
 All knew Js look in harts knew what think/desire
 & they must thot He could see sumthing they
 no know bout selves
 How bout Simon Zealot? He Blong group avowed
 task eliminate enemies Jews.
 Perhaps he could B respons deliver to enemies
 C how bout Matt? When tax coll greed 4 money must
 led cheat poor peop many times
 Peop no afford complain system corrupt
 & if visualize scene in mind, can C why afraid ask
 But all this conjecture, too little said/written
 Only thing can understand is discs & peop not
 understand what take place & sinif of
 But when we realize what take place & even with
 research & interp last 2M yrs it diffi 2 understand
 many peop 2day still no under & afraid 2 ask
 Many these "Will Not" understand
 Say "Will Not" cause there those who no Blieve
 They have writ proof & all interps & turn baks on G
 op say, cannot Blieve story salv like fairy tale
 cannot Blieve cannot C G
 " " " " must do all works, & 2 accept
 2 easy

"Piece By Piece -- Galilee!"

Text: Mark 9:32, "But they understood not that say-
 ing and were afraid to ask."
 Scripture: 2 Sam. 7:12-17, Mark 9:30-32
 J how cum Gal./again no def place where was
 Gal mean "Ring" "Circle" & actually area sm vil/twn
 Chorazin, Capernaum, Cana, Nain, Naza, Pl Gennesaret
 C from this Js whereab unknown
 Iron most all Js minis in borders this sm region
 This pt minis milestone reached
 Js now threshold wat 4 Him final days
 Left N country behind where relativ safe
 Now turn 2ward Jerus final phases life take place
 Scrip tell, want no1 kno where He was
 He travel incognito
 Must felt impera share last few hrs/moments discip
 " explain what happen 2 Him
 He knew when enter hostile territ Jeru no have priva
 Wanted teach discs what want them 2 know
 No want crowds which prevent privacy & prevent
 speak frankly 2 discs
 We C Js felt it impera get message across these men
 He might well feel B4 left earth in body, He desire
 some1, in partic these men/know whys where4's minis
 He seem want convey urgency situa & they grasp it
 2nd time Js. 4tell fut./1st in C Phil
 But 1 phrase add 2 it (read 31b)
 He no say 1st tell & it signif this pt
 Js share secret He betrayed by sum1
 Perhaps let Judas know aware his thots, feelings
 " give " chance change
 Any event, announce not understood & neither
 rest of it understood
 (read vs 32) TEXT
 Prob no underst Beause conflict wat Messiah wud B
 He now known as this B cause Pete call Xp
 He no deny this, & here tell He die
 All lives herd taught wat Mess. do & Js say Con.
 As red 2 Sam 7, Davidic covenant & royal line
 From royal line cum 1 bild House of Lord
 But these discs all Jews look 4 King othrow enem
 This King bild actual Temp or House Lord
 They no conceive Him B mere mortal & imposs die
 They no think He bild Temp in harts lives peop
 are espec only think terms Jews benefit from
 reign & rule Mess.
 Thus can C why no understand

Many no Blieve cause feel they 2 far gone
Story 1 such man told Sunday School Times
(Illustration this man)

3/

He was lesson 4 discips of Js
They no need unders all tak place,
" " " B afraid 2 ask
s would have told them plain/simple terms,
& they would have understood in a new way

Some applies 2 us
We no need unders all G done 4 us thru Son
All need do accept as free gift which it is
& then strive 2 live in that faith from then on

If your hart troubl Bcause U no unders all
or Bcause U feel U no good enuf,
just stop try 2 fathom it all out by self
" accept Him at His word when He said,
"He THAT COMETH TO ME I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT"

He faithful 2 promises & He unders even if we do not

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.